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United States Patent [19] Obayashi et al.

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[54] **NITROGEN OXIDE REMOVAL CATALYST**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bell Seltzer Intellectual Property Law Group of Alston & Bird LLP

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **B01J 23/00**; B01J 23/16;
B01J 8/00

This invention effectively utilizes a solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst which has been used in a catalytic ammonia reduction process and hence reduced in NO_x removal power, and thereby provides an inexpensive catalyst having NO_x removal power equal to that of a fresh catalyst. The nitrogen oxide removal catalyst of this invention, which is useful in a process wherein ammonia is added to exhaust gas and nitrogen oxides present in the exhaust gas are catalytically reduced, has a two-layer structure composed of a lower layer comprising a spent solid type nitrogen oxide removal catalyst and an upper layer comprising a fresh TiO₂-WO₃-V₂O₅ ternary or TiO₂-WO₃ binary catalyst powder which has been applied to the lower layer so as to give a coating thickness of 100 to 250 μm. Moreover, the catalyst powder constituting the upper layer is a catalyst powder obtained by pulverizing a spent solid type nitrogen oxide removal catalyst.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **502/305**; 502/309; 502/312;
502/350; 502/353; 502/527.15; 423/239.1

[58] **Field of Search** 502/305, 309,
502/312, 350, 353, 527.15, 527; 428/403,
404, 701, 702; 423/239.1

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4 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

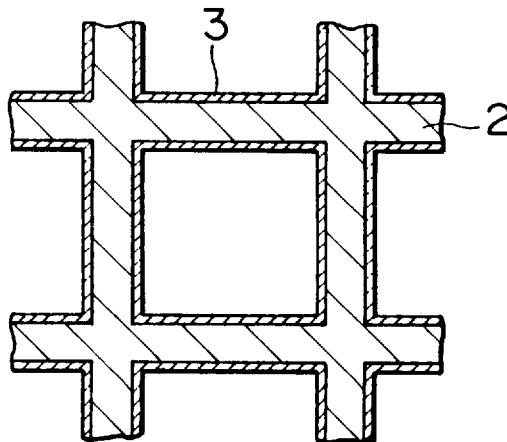


FIG. 1

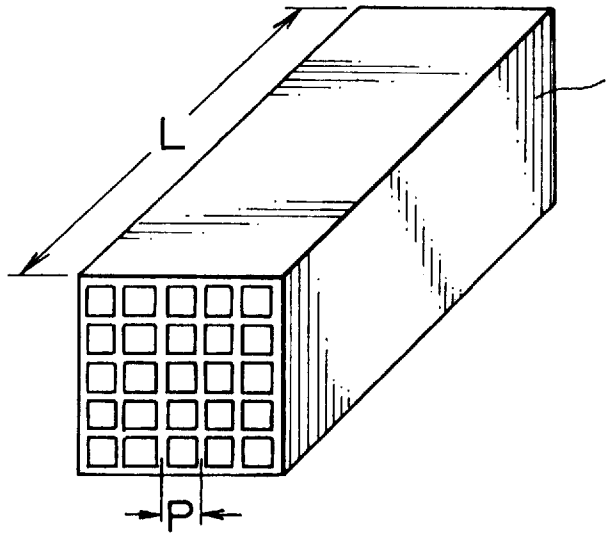
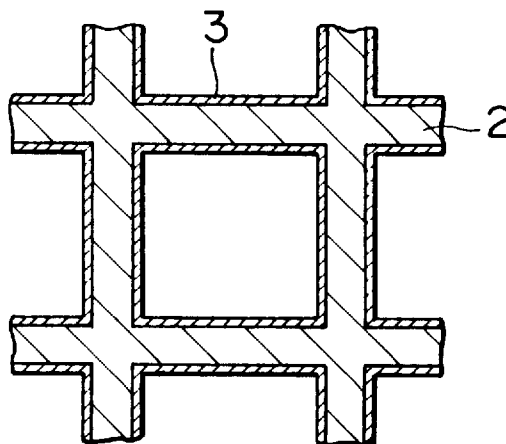


FIG. 2



NITROGEN OXIDE REMOVAL CATALYST

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a nitrogen oxide removal catalyst which is useful for the removal of nitrogen oxides present in combustion exhaust gases such as exhaust gas from boilers.

2. Description of the Related Art

Conventionally, in order to remove nitrogen oxides (hereinafter referred to as NO_x) produced in boilers and various combustion furnaces for the purpose of preventing air pollution, a catalytic ammonia reduction process wherein ammonia is used as a reducing agent and nitrogen oxides are catalytically decomposed to nitrogen and water with the aid of a catalyst is being widely employed. Most of the NO_x removal catalysts currently used for practical purposes are honeycomb-shaped catalysts which have through-holes of square cross section in order to prevent clogging with dust present in exhaust gas and increase the gas contact area. With respect to catalyst components, titanium oxide is highly suitable for use as a principal component, and vanadium, tungsten and the like are used as additional active components. Thus, TiO_2 - WO_3 binary catalysts and TiO_2 - V_2O_5 - WO_3 ternary catalysts are popularly used.

However, when a NO_x removal catalyst is used for the treatment of combustion exhaust gas, its NO_x removal power tends to be gradually reduced. Of various NO_x removal catalysts, those used for the treatment of exhaust gas from oil-fired boilers pose no problem because their reduction in NO_x removal power is insignificant. In contrast, NO_x removal catalysts used for the treatment of exhaust gas from coal-fired boilers show a considerable reduction in NO_x removal power with the lapse of time, and hence require some counter-measure. In order to maintain the required NO_x removal power, it is necessary to replace the spent catalyst with a fresh one. However, this is disadvantageous from an economic point of view because a fresh catalyst is expensive and the spent catalyst requires a cost of disposal.

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to effectively utilize a spent solid type (i.e., the type in which the catalysts themselves form a shaped body) honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst for use in a catalytic ammonia reduction process (in particular, a spent NO_x removal catalyst which has been used for the removal of NO_x from the exhaust gas of a coal-fired boiler) and thereby provide an inexpensive catalyst having NO_x removal power equal to that of a fresh catalyst.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In reusing solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalysts which had been practically used for the removal of NO_x from the exhaust gas of coal-fired boiler plants for about 500,000 hours, the present inventors investigated the strength and NO_x removal power of the honeycomb-shaped catalysts. As a result, it was confirmed that their strength remained unchanged as compared with fresh catalysts, but their NO_x removal power was reduced to less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of that of fresh catalysts.

As a result of further investigation on the cause for the reduction in the NO_x removal power of these catalysts, it was found that, among various fly ash components attached to the catalyst surface, principally calcium oxide (CaO) was gradually converted into gypsum (CaSO_4) which covered the catalyst surface and thereby prevented the reaction gases

(i.e., NO_x and NH_3) from diffusing into the catalyst. It was also confirmed that this CaSO_4 layer lay on the catalyst surface to a depth of several micrometers to several tens of micrometers and the catalyst remained fresh at greater depths and that the NO_x removal action of the solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalysts was effectively used only in a surface layer having a thickness of the order of 100 μm . Then, the present inventors hit on the idea that a solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst having sufficiently high denitration power might be obtained by coating the surface of a solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst having reduced NO_x removal power with a catalytic component having NO_x removal power. On the basis of this conception, the present inventors have made an intensive investigation and have now completed the present invention.

Thus, the present invention provides (1) a nitrogen oxide removal catalyst for use in a process wherein ammonia is added to exhaust gas and nitrogen oxides present in the exhaust gas are catalytically reduced, said catalyst having a two-layer structure composed of a lower layer comprising a spent solid type nitrogen oxide removal catalyst and an upper layer comprising a fresh TiO_2 - WO_3 - V_2O_5 ternary or TiO_2 - WO_3 binary catalyst power which has been applied to the lower layer so as to give a coating thickness of 100 to 250 μm ; (2) a nitrogen oxide removal catalyst as described above in (1) wherein the fresh catalyst power consists essentially of 0 to 10% by weight of V_2O_5 , 5 to 20% by weight of WO_3 and the balance being TiO_2 ; and (3) a nitrogen oxide removal catalyst as described above in (1) wherein the catalyst power constituting the upper layer is a catalyst powder obtained by pulverizing a spent solid type nitrogen oxide removal catalyst.

The present invention relates to a NO_x removal catalyst which is useful in a process wherein ammonia is added to exhaust gas and NO_x present in the exhaust gas are removed by catalytic reduction. This NO_x removal catalyst has a two-layer structure composed of a lower layer comprising a spent solid type NO_x removal catalyst and an upper layer comprising a catalyst powder applied to the lower layer. In the lower layer, a spent solid type honeycomb-shaped catalyst which has been used for the removal of NO_x from combustion exhaust gas, and has become useless because of a reduction in NO_x removal power is used directly in the form of a shaped product. The catalyst powder constituting the upper layer may be a fresh titania-based (e.g., TiO_2 - V_2O_5 - WO_3) catalyst powder or a catalyst powder obtained by pulverizing a spent solid type honeycomb-shaped catalyst which has been used for the removal of NO_x , for example, from the exhaust gas of a coal-fired boiler and has become useless.

Although the composition of the catalyst used in the upper layer may vary according to the exhaust gas conditions (i.e., the type of fuel used, the temperature of the exhaust gas, and the like) under which the catalyst of the present invention is used, it is selected from TiO_2 - V_2O_5 - WO_3 ternary and TiO_2 - WO_3 binary NO_x removal catalysts which are currently used for practical purposes. Typically, this catalyst consists essentially of 0 to 10% by weight of V_2O_5 , 5 to 20% by weight of WO_3 and the balance being TiO_2 . The thickness of the upper catalyst layer is preferably in the range of 100 to 250 μm . If the thickness thereof is less than 100 μm , the resulting catalyst will have low NO_x removal power, and if it is greater than 250 μm , the upper catalyst layer will have poor adhesion to the lower catalyst layer and may be separated therefrom.

As described previously, the reduced NO_x removal power of a spent solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal

catalyst is attributable to a gypsum layer covering the catalyst surface to a depth ranging from several micrometers to several tens of micrometers. At greater depths, the catalyst is scarcely reduced in NO_x removal power. Consequently, if a solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst having reduced NO_x removal power (i.e., a spent catalyst) is pulverized, the gypsum concentration is decreased to substantially the same level as in a fresh binary or ternary NO_x removal catalyst. As a result, there is obtained a NO_x removal catalyst powder having NO_x removal equal to that of a fresh catalyst. In the present invention, therefore, a catalyst powder obtained by pulverizing a spent solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst may be used as a fresh binary or ternary NO_x removal catalyst. This makes it possible to produce a NO_x removal catalyst having the same degree of strength and NO_x removal powder as a fresh solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst in accordance with the present invention; and

FIG. 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view illustrating the honeycomb configuration of the solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The structure of a NO_x removal catalyst in accordance with the present invention is explained with reference with FIGS. 1 and 2. FIG. 1 is a perspective view thereof and FIG. 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view illustrating its honeycomb configuration. In FIG. 1, numeral 1 designates a solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalyst in accordance with the present invention, and P and L stand for the pitch (i.e., the center distance between adjacent walls) and length of the honeycomb, respectively. In FIG. 2, numeral 2 designates a lower catalyst layer (comprising a spent solid type NO_x removal catalyst) and numeral 3 designates an upper catalyst layer (comprising a powder of a fresh NO_x removal catalyst or a spent solid type NO_x removal catalyst).

In order to demonstrate the effects of nitrogen oxide removal catalysts in accordance with the present invention, the following examples are given.

EXAMPLE 1

A solid type honeycomb-shaped catalyst which had been used in exhaust gas from coal-fired boiler plant A for about 45,000 hours and had become useless because of a reduction in NO_x removal power was provided. This catalyst had a honeycomb configuration as shown in FIG. 1 and its pitch (P) was 7.4 mm. This catalyst was composed of 90.9% by weight of TiO₂, 8.5% by weight of WO₃ and 0.6% by weight of V₂O₅.

On the other hand, powdered titania (MC-50; manufactured by Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha, Ltd., Japan) as a raw material for TiO₂ was impregnated with a methylamine solution of ammonium metavanadate as a raw material for V₂O₅ and a methylamine solution of ammonium paratungstate as a raw material for WO₃, followed by drying and firing. Thus, there was obtained a powder composed of 90.9% by weight of TiO₂, 8.5% by weight of WO₃ and 0.6% by weight of V₂O₅. This powder had a particle diameter range of 0.2 to 23 μm and a median diameter of 1.1 μm.

Then, a slurry was prepared by adding water, a silica sol and an alumina sol to the above powder, and applied to the above honeycomb-shaped catalyst so as to give a coating thickness of 100 μm. The catalyst thus obtained was called Catalyst 1.

EXAMPLE 2

A solid type honeycomb-shaped catalyst (with a pitch of 7.4 mm) which had been used in exhaust gas from coal-fired boiler plant A for about 45,000 hours and had become useless because of a reduction in NO_x removal power was provided. This catalyst had the same composition as that used in Example 1. On the other hand, a similar catalyst (composed of 90.9% by weight of TiO₂, 0.6% by weight of V₂O₅ and 8.5% by weight of WO₃) having reduced NO_x removal power was pulverized to obtain a catalyst powder (having a particle diameter range of 0.1 to 20 μm and a median diameter of 2.3 μm). Then, a slurry was prepared by adding water, a silica sol and an alumina sol to this catalyst powder, and applied to the above honeycomb-shaped catalyst so as to give a coating thickness of about 100 μm. The catalyst thus obtained was called Catalyst 2.

EXAMPLE 3

A solid type honeycomb-shaped catalyst (with a pitch of 7.4 mm) which had been used in exhaust gas from coal-fired boiler plant A for about 45,000 hours and had become useless because of a reduction in NO_x removal power was provided for use as the underlying catalyst. This catalyst had the same composition as that used in Example 1. On the other hand, a catalyst similar to the underlying catalyst was pulverized to obtain a catalyst powder having a particle diameter range of 0.1 to 20 μm and a median diameter of 2.3 μm. This catalyst powder was impregnated with a methylamine solution of ammonium metavanadate as a raw material for V₂O₅, and a methylamine solution of ammonium paratungstate as a raw material for WO₃ so as to increase its V₂O₅ content by 2.35% by weight, followed by drying and firing. Thus, a powder composed of 88.5% by weight of TiO₂, 8.5% by weight of WO₃ and 3.0% by weight of V₂O₅ was obtained for use as the upper catalyst layer. A slurry was prepared by adding water, a silica sol and an alumina sol to this powder, and applied to the surface of the above honeycomb-shaped catalyst so as to give a coating thickness of about 100 μm. The catalyst thus obtained was called Catalyst 3.

EXAMPLE 4

A solid type honeycomb-shaped catalyst (with a pitch of 7.4 mm) which had been used in exhaust gas from coal-fired boiler plant B for about 60,000 hours and had become useless because of a reduction in NO_x removal power was provided for use as the underlying catalyst. This catalyst had the same composition as that used in Example 1. On the other hand, a catalyst similar to the underlying catalyst was pulverized to obtain a catalyst powder having a particle diameter range of 0.1 to 26 μm and a median diameter of 2.5 μm. Then, a slurry was prepared by adding water, a silica sol and an alumina sol to this catalyst powder, and applied to surface of the above honeycomb-shaped catalyst so as to give a coating thickness of about 100 μm. The catalyst thus obtained was called Catalyst 4.

EXPERIMENTS

In these experiments, fresh catalysts for use in coal-fired boiler plants A and B, and the spent catalysts used in the

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examples were used as control catalysts. By comparison with these control catalyst, Catalyst 1-4 obtained in the foregoing examples were tested for NO_x removal power under the conditions shown in Table 1. And the test results were shown in Table 2.

TABLE 1

Testing conditions	
Shape of catalyst	6 holes × 7 holes × 500 mm long
Flow rate of gas	20.1 Nm ³ /m ² · hr
SV value	16,600 hr ⁻¹
NH ₃ /NO _x ratio	1.0
Temperature of gas	380° C.
Composition of gas	NO _x = 150 ppm NH ₃ = 150 ppm SO _x = 800 ppm O ₂ = 4% CO ₂ = 11% H ₂ O = 11% N ₂ = Balance

TABLE 2

Test results		
	Catalyst	Degree of NO _x removal (%)
Example	1	67.0
	2	65.4
	3	75.6
	4	64.2
Comparative Example	Spent catalyst used in plant A	49.8
	Spent catalyst used in plant B	26.2
	Fresh catalyst for use in plant A	65.3
	Fresh catalyst for use in plant B	64.5

Degree of NO_x removal (%) = $\frac{[(\text{Inlet NO}_x \text{ content}) - (\text{Outlet NO}_x \text{ content})]}{(\text{Inlet NO}_x \text{ content})} \times 100$

These results reveal that, when catalysts which had been used in coal-fired boiler plants A and B and hence had reduced NO_x removal power were reconstructed according to the present invention, there were obtained catalysts hav-

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ing NO_x removal power equal to that of fresh catalysts. Moreover, they also reveal that the NO_x removal power of fresh catalysts was surpassed by supporting an active component (such as V₂O₅) on a spent catalyst.

Thus, the present invention makes it possible to effectively utilize spent solid type honeycomb-shaped NO_x removal catalysts (especially for use with coal-fired boilers) which have conventionally been useless and disposed of, and thereby provide inexpensive NO_x removal catalysts while reducing the amount of industrial waste. Consequently, the present invention can produce marked industrial effects.

We claim:

1. A nitrogen oxide removal catalyst for use in a process wherein ammonia is added No exhaust gas and nitrogen oxides present in the exhaust gas are catalytically reduced, said catalyst having a two-layer structure composed of a lower layer comprising a spent solid type nitrogen oxide removal catalyst and an upper layer comprising a fresh TiO₂-WO₃-V₂O₅ ternary or TiO₂-WO₃ binary catalyst powder which has been applied to the lower layer so as to give a coating thickness of 100 to 250 μm.

2. A nitrogen oxide removal catalyst as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fresh catalyst powder consists essentially of 0 to 10% by weight of V₂O₅, 5 to 20% by weight of WO₃ and the balance being TiO₂.

3. A nitrogen oxide removal catalyst as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spent solid type nitrogen oxide removal catalyst is a honeycomb-shaped catalyst.

4. A nitrogen oxide removal catalyst for use in a process wherein ammonia is added to exhaust gas and nitrogen oxides present in the exhaust gas are catalytically reduced, said catalyst having a two-layer structure composed of a lower layer comprising a spent solid type nitrogen oxide removal catalyst and an upper layer comprising a catalyst powder which has been applied to the lower layer so as to give a coating thickness of 100 to 250 μm wherein the catalyst powder constituting the upper layer is a catalyst powder obtained by pulverizing a spent solid type nitrogen oxide removal catalyst.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 5,869,419
DATED : February 9, 1999
INVENTOR(S) : Obayashi et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the title page, item [56] should read:

In the References Cited, U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS, line 8, "5,138,982" should read --5,139,982--.
Column 6, line 16, "No" should read --to--.

Signed and Sealed this
Third Day of August, 1999

Attest:



Q. TODD DICKINSON

Attesting Officer

Acting Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks